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Dear Ms Kemp,

Re: A world class teaching profession – Government consultation

4Children welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Department for Education's consultation on creating a world class teaching profession.

4Children is the national charity all about children and families. We have spearheaded a joined-up, integrated approach to children's services and work with a wide range of partners around the country to ensure children and families have access to the services and support they need in their communities. We run Sure Start Children's Centres as well as family and youth services across Britain. We develop, influence and shape national policy on all aspects of the lives of children, young people and families.

In this short submission, we will set out our response to the proposals outlined in the consultation document for establishing a new College of Teaching. 4Children very much supports the Government's ambition of putting the teaching profession in England on a par with the best in the world, and recognises the extremely valuable contribution that a College of Teaching could make by driving high levels of professional development and improvements in teaching standards.

However, the main comment we would make with regard to the Government's proposals is the need for further consideration to be given to how the College would support the development of Early Years Teachers and a high quality early years workforce. The consultation clearly recognises the importance of Early Years Teachers and their place in the wider education system, stating that "Early Years Teachers are a critical part of the early education workforce, with many working in and around schools". It also sets out the Government's aim of supporting teachers' development across all phases of education in a joined-up way, suggesting that the proposed new College "will help to ensure that a more coherent approach can be taken across the piece, with the single goal of improving teacher quality" (paragraph 1.7).

However, the fact that the proposals set out in the consultation primarily focus on those who teach compulsory school age children means that opportunities for supporting Early Years Teachers are not explored in any great detail, and we feel that this may be something of a missed opportunity. A new College of Teaching could potentially play a major role in supporting the continued development of a high quality early years profession, and facilitate greater joint learning with teachers in primary schools which is particularly important when it comes to issues such as transition. We would therefore urge the Government to give more detailed consideration to how support for early years professionals could be built in to the work of the College, and ensure this is reflected in the final proposals that are taken forward.

If you have any further questions regarding this submission, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



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